

DRAFT

Governor's Blue Ribbon Water Task Force

Meeting Notes
March 23-24, 2005
Albuquerque, NM

Attendees: Brian Burnett, Bill Hume, John D'Antonio, Estevan Lopez, Conci Bokum, Frank Chaves, Wayne Cunningham, Peter Davies, Eileen Grevey Hillson, Elmer Lincoln, G.X. McSherry, Paul Paryski, Elmer Salazar, Bob Vocke, and Jack Westman attended the meeting. Guests included Rick DeSimone, Tink Jackson, Bruce Frederick, Dario Rodriguez, and John Romero.

The next meeting of the BRWTF will be April 27-28, 2005 in Albuquerque, NM.

Rick DeSimone (OSE) covered: status of OSE two years ago (water rights/hydrographic survey, administration/adjudication, and WATERS/WRATS-GIS) and status of OSE today (integrated processes & procedures, technology sharing platforms, Enterprise GIS [infrastructure] as demonstrated on Gila River-Virden Valley/Sandia Basin/San Juan-La Plata (see <http://eweb.lanl.gov/blueribbon.htm>).

Tink Jackson (OSE, Deputy Director District 3) presented: Virden Valley: A New Approach to a Historic Process (see <http://eweb.lanl.gov/blueribbon.htm>).

Dario Rodriguez (OSE) presented: San Juan Project: La Plata Section (see <http://eweb.lanl.gov/blueribbon.htm>). Dario will schedule a live demonstration for the next Task Force meeting.

The Task Force reviewed legislation passed during the 47th Legislature - State of New Mexico - First Session, 2005, which resulted in the following recommendation to Governor Richardson.

March 28, 2005

Governor Richardson's Blue Ribbon Water Task Force recommends the following actions on legislation passed during State of New Mexico 2005 47th Legislature. These actions continue New Mexico's commitment in making investments necessary for the general welfare of its citizens and in order to assure a stable economic environment for future generations.

Bill No. Short Title	Action
HB 195 Create Strategic Water Reserve Sign	Sign
HB 885 Severance Tax Bond Projects (\$12M for the Pecos Settlement)	Sign
HB 917 Prosecution for Various Misuses of Water	Sign
HB 1110 Public Peace, Health, Safety & Welfare (Funding for Adjudication)	Sign
SB 172 Create Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund	Sign
SB 706 Tax Credit Definition of Produced Water	Veto

Several other points were made during Task Force discussions:

- 85 OSE FTEs will be converted from temporary to permanent leaving 41, which is ahead of the OSE conversion schedule;
- Additional funding is needed to complete the Pecos Settlement;
- Implementing AWRM is key to the State's administration of water and the State's economic well being;
- Reservoir levels are projected to improve with snowpack snowmelt runoff this year; and
- Securing funding for Indian water rights settlements is a major issue.